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Abstract

This final report of the Connecticut Vocational Education Research Coordinating Unit (RCU) summarizes activities during the period December 1, 1966 to August 31, 1969. The major objectives of the RCU, specific RCU projects, studies conducted for the improvement of instructional programs in vocational education, and a list of significant findings and events are given. The report also includes related activities and a summary of professional RCU staff. (CH)

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FINAL REPORT

Project No. 6-2980

Grant No. OEG-1-7-062980-1592

CONNECTICUT VOCATIONAL EDUCATION RESEARCH COORDINATING UNIT

October, 1969

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

Office of Education
Bureau of Research

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FINAL REPORT

Project No. 6-2980
Grant No. OEG-1-7-062980-1592

CONNECTICUT VOCATIONAL EDUCATION RESEARCH COORDINATING UNIT

Herbert Righthand, Project Director

Division of Vocational Education
Connecticut State Department of Education
Hartford, Connecticut

October 1969

The research reported herein was performed pursuant to a grant with the Office of Education, U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. Contractors undertaking such projects under Government sponsorship are encouraged to express freely their professional judgment in the conduct of the project. Points of view or opinions stated do not, therefore, necessarily represent official Office of Education position or policy.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE

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PREFACE

In June 1965 the Connecticut State Department of Education received approval for the establishment of a Research Coordinating Unit in its Division of Vocational Education. Funds were allocated for this unit under Section 4 (c) of the Vocational Education Act of 1963.

The establishment of the Research Coordinating Unit (RCU) enabled the Division of Vocational Education to further supplement its research activities which had been formally initiated in 1953 when a professional staff research position was established. RCU funds, therefore, provided added impetus for strengthening, developing, and executing research and research-related activities necessary for the maintenance and initiation of vocational education programs under the 1963 Vocational Education Act.

The original RCU grant award covered an eighteen month period from June 1, 1965 to November 30, 1966. A proposal was submitted and approved in the spring of 1966 for the continuation of the unit through June 30, 1968. The continuation proposal was later given a no-cost extension through December 1968. At that time a new proposal was prepared which extended the RCU grant through August 1969 with the aid of supplementary monies.

This report deals with the activities of the Connecticut RCU during the continuation period of December 1, 1966 to August 31, 1969.

INTRODUCTION

The Connecticut Research Coordinating Unit is located in the Bureau of Vocational Services of the Division of Vocational Education. It is housed on the third floor of the State Office Building in Hartford. It is under the jurisdiction of the Director of Division of Vocational Education and the Commissioner of Education.

The original objectives and activities which were set forth in the original proposal in 1965 were reported on in full in the final report entitled The Establishment of the Research Coordinating Unit in the Connecticut State Department of Education, November 1966.

During the continuation period some changes in objectives, organization, and staffing were necessitated. These changes are reported herein along with an accounting of the projects and activities sponsored or conducted by the RCU.

The success of the RCU in Connecticut has been substantially enhanced by the cooperation of both the professional and supportive staffs of the Division of Vocational Education, as well as other members of the State Department of Education, other state agencies, state advisory committees, schools and colleges, and other agencies and individuals too numerous to list in full here.

The general objectives of the Research Coordinating Unit, as outlined in the contiunation proposal, were:

1. Continue to disseminate vocational research findings and to develop improved methods of coordinating and disseminating research.

2. Encourage the conduct of studies for the improvement of instructional programs in vocational education.

3. Offer seminars for educators and others in the conduct and implementation of research.

4. Continue to study the needs for coordination and application of data processing techniques relative to research data.

5. Develop evaluative criteria for programs in vocational education in Connecticut

FINAL REPORT FOR PERIOD DECEMBER 1, 1966 TO AUGUST 31, 1969

I. MAJOR ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE RESEARCH COORDINATING UNIT

The following is a report of the activities and accomplishments of the RCU as they relate to the general objectives:

OBJECTIVE #1

Continue to disseminate vocational research findings and to develop improved methods of coordinating and disseminating research.

A. Research Library. A vocational research library which was begun during the original grant period was expanded to include several hundred documents, research reports, etc., from various states. A classification system has been established for the purpose of cataloguing research materials as they are received.

B. Vocational Research Quarterly. An RCU newsletter has been prepared by the staff on a quarterly basis. The newsletter's main purpose is to keep Connecticut educators aware of vocational research activities in Connecticut, but attention is also given to developments in other states and on the national level.

The newsletter is distributed on a wide and varied basis including all state directors of education, all research coordinating units, state and local agencies and institutions, guidance and administrative personnel in state and local schools, vocational teachers and coordinators, U.S. Office of Education, and numerous individuals who have requested to be placed on the mailing list.

C. Annual Research Report. The RCU prepares an annual report of vocational and occupational research activities in Connecticut. The report attempts to cover state vocational research whether or not it is directly initiated, sponsored, or conducted by the RCU. The report is essentially a compilation of abstracts of completed or in process studies. It identifies the principal investigator, purpose of study, data sources, findings and conclusions, and (for completed studies) shows the ways in which the study findings were implemented.

The mailing list for this report essentially the same as that of the research quarterly. Approximately 1300 copies of the latest annual report were disseminated throughout the State and nation.

D. Selected Mailing Lists. The RCU has compiled a number of selected mailing lists most of which have been placed on mailing plates for automatic addressing machines. These separate lists allow the RCU staff to do quantity mailing to selected groups and audiences which might find certain reports relevant to their needs.

E. Dissemination Practices. The RCU has made a practice of arranging for sufficient quantities of all research reports to enable them to disseminate the results to those who might best utilize them or benefit from them. An estimated thirty-five thousand pieces of literature (reports, studies, newsletters, etc.) were disseminated during the grant continuation period.

F. ERIC Clearinghouse. The RCU has maintained a link with the ERIC Clearinghouse for Vocational and Technical Education at Ohio State University. It has forwarded copies of all research reports, studies, surveys, newsletters, and other research or research-related materials to the Clearinghouse for inclusion in the ERIC system. In addition, the RCU has made a genuine attempt to inform Connecticut educators and others of important ERIC publications, materials, and other developments in the ERIC system.

A complete file of ERIC catalogues including Research In Education, AIM and ARM is maintained by the RCU for its own use as well as for others in the department and throughout the state.

The Hine Library of the State Department of Education maintains a complete file of ERIC microfiche and a reader-printer which is available to the RCU staff and others.

OBJECTIVE #2

Encourage the conduct of studies for the improvement of instructional programs in vocational education.

Following is a list of studies and projects either conducted, sponsored, or supervised by the RCU during the continuation period. Each has been assigned an RCU project number and a code to indicate the type of agency which conducted the project as follows:

RCU - Conducted directly by RCU staff or Division of Vocational Education staff.

CTR - Conducted by college, university, or other public or private agency or individual under contract with the RCU.

LOC - Conducted by local educational agency or individual.

AGCY - Conducted for the RCU by another state agency.

	Title	Project No.	Code
1.	Predictive Testing as a Method of Selecting Entering Students for Trade Programs in Public Secondary and Vocational-Technical Schools (Phase II).	6517	CTR

	Title	Project No.	Code
2.	Annual Statistical Summary of Vocational Education Programs for Fiscal Year 1966	662	RCU
3.	A Special Survey of the Need for Instrument Makers in the Waterbury Area	663	AGCY
4.	Graduate Summary - Vocational-Technical Schools and State Technical Colleges	664	RCU
5.	Program Development Needs in Vocational Education in Health Service Occupations at the Secondary and Post-Secondary Levels for Connecticut	665	CTR
6.	Student Admissions Survey-State Vocational-Technical Schools and State Technical Colleges	666	RCU
7.	Follow-Up Survey of 1966 Graduates	667	RCU
8.	Survey of Training Needs for Aircraft and Powerplant Mechanics	668	AGCY
9.	A Survey to Determine the Occupational Needs for the Food and Lodging Industry	669	RCU
10.	Educational Status Study of Vocational-Technical School and State Technical College Staffs	6610	RCU
11.	Sophomore IQ Study - Vocational-Technical Schools	6611	LOC
12.	The University and Vocational-Technical Education	6612	CTR
13.	A Search of Materials for Planned Programmed Instruction in the Machine Trades for Possible Use in Connecticut Vocational-Technical Schools	6613	CTR
14.	Survey of Training Needs for Diesel Engine Maintenance and Repairmen	6614	AGCY
15.	Survey of Training Needs for Small Gasoline Engine Repairmen	6615	AGCY

	Title	Project No.	Code
16.	Final Report - The Establishment of the Research Coordinating Unit in the Connecticut State Department of Education	6616	RCU
17.	Graduate Summary for Vocational-Technical Schools	671	RCU
18.	Statewide Survey of Environmental Health Occupations	672	AGCY
19.	Fall Enrollment Summary Report - 1967	673	RCU
20.	Follow-Up Survey of 1967 Graduates	674	RCU
21.	Annual Statistical Summary of Vocational Programs for Fiscal Year 1967	675	RCU
22.	Vocational-Technical School Applicant Survey (1967-68)	676	RCU
23.	A Study of the Need for a Program in Adult Distributive Education in the Stamford Area	677	CTR
24.	A Study to Determine the Need for a Regional Vocational-Technical School in the Area of the Towns of Enfield and Suffield	678	RCU
25.	A Study to Determine the Need to Provide Agriculture Education on a Regional Basis in the Lower Connecticut Valley Area	679	RCU
26.	Follow-Up Study of the Graduates of Connecticut Vocational-Technical Schools - Classes of 1958 and 1963.	6710	CTR
27.	A Survey of Literature of Recent Trends in Single vs Multi-Teacher Departments of Vocational Agriculture to Assist in a Policy Review of Connecticut's Regional Vocational Agriculture Centers	6711	RCU

	Title	Project No.	Code
28.	A Study of The Need for a Vocational-Technical School in the Area of the Town of Groton	6712	RCU
29.	A Statewide Study of Connecticut Printing Industry Occupations	6713	CTR
30.	A Study to Determine the Need for a Regional Vocational-Technical School in the Area of the Town of Old Saybrook	6715	RCU
31.	Survey of the Need for Automobile Body Repairmen in the Eastern Connecticut Area	6716	RCU
32.	Survey of the Class of 1963 of the Norwalk State Technical College	6717	LOC
33.	Professional Preparation Goals of Occupationally-Oriented Educators in Connecticut	681	CTR
34.	A Survey of the Administrative Structure of Connecticut Vocational-Technical Schools	682	CTR
35.	A Study of Guidance Practices Relative to Vocational Programs in Local Schools	683	CTR
36.	A Study of Education for the Distributive Occupations with Implications for Better Articulation of High School and Community College Programs in Connecticut	684	CTR
37.	Vocational-Technical School Applicant Survey (1968-69)	685	RCU
38.	Graduate Follow-Up Survey - Class of 1968	686	RCU
39.	Development of an Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Curriculum	687	CTR
40.	Development of Curriculum and Laboratory Facilities for Aeronautical Technology	688	CTR
41.	Special Survey of Training Needs for Welders in the Eastern Connecticut Area	689	LOC

	Title	Project No.	Code
42.	An Experimental Program to Determine the Feasibility of Inter-School Cooperation in Work Experience Programs on a Regional Basis	6810	LOC
43.	A Developmental Program of Supplementary Training for Nurse Aides Currently Employed in Extended Care Facilities in the New Haven Area	6811	LOC

OBJECTIVE #3

Offer Seminars for educators and others in the conduct and implementation of research.

The Research Coordinating Unit staff spent considerable time in 1968 assisting in the writing of a proposal and the planning of a summer research institute, "Manpower Surveys for Vocational-Technical Educational Planning", which was held from July 7-12 of that year at the University of Connecticut.

The institute which was funded by the U.S. Office of Education was conducted by the Labor Education Center at the University and was open to applicants from throughout the entire nation.

The purpose of the institute was to bring together vocational education, labor, employment service, university, and other personnel engaged in manpower research and planning, and to develop an understanding of the cooperative planning and techniques needed to conduct manpower surveys, and to analyze and implement their findings.

RCU staff members, as well as other personnel from the Division of Vocational Education, attended and participated in the institute program.

Plans to conduct an invitational workshop for educators in the conduct and implementation of research in vocational education were abandoned during the grant period. Failure to secure a full professional RCU staff to handle existing priorities was the main reason for foregoing this activity.

OBJECTIVE #4

Continue to study the needs for coordination and application of data processing techniques relative to research data.

The tremendous growth in vocational education programs in the State which resulted in increased numbers of schools, teachers, students, etc., made the collection and reduction of statistical data a greater task than it had been prior to the implementation of the Vocational Education Act of

1963. Growth was rapidly occurring in both state and locally operated programs and data collection and compilation was taking an increasing amount of professional and clerical time.

Consequently, the RCU staff found it advisable to explore the applicability of data processing techniques in the completion of state and federal reports as well as for handling research data obtained in specific research studies.

During the continuation period, the RCU staff has worked closely with the State Data Center in arranging for the development of computer programs to handle both enrollment and follow-up data for vocational education programs.

After much trial and error, accompanied by changes of programmers, forms were designed, instructions prepared, computer programs were written and revised, and a reporting system put into operation. Initially, optical scanning forms and equipment were employed for these purposes, but a card punch system was reverted to after several inadequacies were found in the optical scan system.

A good deal of time and effort has been expended in developing this automated system and in re-educating local school personnel to the changes involved. It would appear that the reporting changes inherent in the 1968 Amendments to the Vocational Education Act of 1963 will require much additional activity in this area.

OBJECTIVE #5

Develop evaluative criteria for programs in vocational education in Connecticut.

A major responsibility of the RCU was the development of evaluative criteria and assessment guidelines for all vocational programs in the state. RCU staff members worked closely with a committee comprised of subject area consultants in the Bureau of Vocational Services during the 1966-67 school year to develop appropriate criteria. A manual of assessment guidelines including evaluative criteria, rating instruments, and procedures was prepared by the RCU for use by program developers and subject area specialists.

During the 1967-68 school year the staff of the Bureau of Vocational Services conducted an evaluation of all approved vocational programs in Connecticut. Recommendations for program improvement were made with provisions for follow-up of the evaluation at a later date.

As a result of year's experience with the new guidelines, a number of changes were suggested by the evaluators. The RCU was once again assigned the responsibility of taking the leadership in forming a committee composed of members of the bureau staff to revise the assessment guidelines. The revised manual was completed in the fall of 1968 and has been in use for nearly a year.

The manual was prepared as an aid to teachers, supervisors, and administrators in recognizing program strengths and weaknesses, identifying effective techniques, understanding concepts, redirecting objectives, upgrading instruction, as well as for revising or establishing criteria for future evaluations.

II. PROBLEMS

The major problem encountered by the RCU was the failure to fill a staff position which remained vacant for the greater part of the continuation period. Lack of qualified applicants, time limitations of the RCU grant, and a state freeze on position vacancies at various times contributed to the RCU's inability to bring its professional staff to full strength.

This under staffing prevented the unit from more fully achieving its objectives and from undertaking a number of additional projects which might otherwise have been initiated.

III. SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS AND EVENTS

All significant findings, conclusions, and recommendations of completed studies and projects have been published in individual project reports and have been summarized in the RCU quarterly newsletter, the Vocational Research Quarterly. Copies of project reports and newsletters have been forwarded regularly to the project officer.

The Connecticut RCU has played many significant roles during the period covered by this report. Among the more significant contributions are:

1. Initiated and conducted of a number of research studies and projects.

2. Engaged other public agencies to assist in research to meet vocational education needs.

3. Made contractual arrangements with colleges, universities, private agencies, and individuals for the conduct of research.

4. Attempted to stimulate research studies, surveys, and pilot and experimental projects at the local level.

5. Provided consultative and resource assistance to agencies and individuals on both a formal and informal basis.

6. Acted as an agency for the coordination and dissemination of in-state and out-of-state research findings.

7. Provided opportunities for staff members to attend national, state, and local conferences enabling them to keep abreast of latest research developements and to establish working relationships with other professionals.

8. Served as a resource center for vocational program data as well as for vocational research publications, ERIC catalogues, and similar materials.

9. Assumed responsibility for the collection, coordination, and processing of statistical data necessary for the completion of various federal and state reports, including graduate follow-up surveys.

10. Assisted in providing needed data for the annual and long-range state plan for vocational education.

11. Worked closely with the state data center in investigating, testing, and implementing data processing techniques relative to vocational enrollment and graduate follow-up data.

12. Assumed the leadership in the development of vocational program assessment criteria and evaluation schedules and procedures.

13. Developed the research and exemplary programs sections of the state plan for vocational education.

14. Accepted responsibility for the administration of exemplary programs and projects funded under the Part D of the 1968 Vocational Education Amendments.

15. Administered state and federal funds allocated for research and research-related activities.

16. Developed proposals, completed progress reports, and other responsibilities pertinent to the administration of the RCU under its grant award.

IV. DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES

Dissemination activities are discussed in detail under "MAJOR ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS" above.

V. CAPITAL EQUIPMENT ACQUISTIONS

None

VI. DATA COLLECTION (FORMS)

None applicable.

VII. OTHER ACTIVITIES

The RCU staff has been represented at a number of national, regional, state, and local conferences, seminars, and other meetings. Some of the major events included conferences and workshops sponsored by the American Vocational Association, the

U.S. Office of Education, American Educational Research Association, American Personnel and Guidance Association, and by the Connecticut State Department of Education.

RCU representatives also attended national and regional RCU conferences as well as several other meetings, workshops, and seminar dealing with research, curriculum, evaluation, manpower, and other research or research-related topics.

The RCU cooperated with the U.S. Office of Education in 1968 as one of three states participating in a pretest of forms and procedures for use in a national sample study of "Characteristics of Vocational Educational Programs and Those People Served." Further cooperation was given by the RCU in 1969 when this study was expanded nationally. The RCU provided the USOE with teacher lists compiled through a suggested random sampling technique.

The RCU participated in a number of regional meetings of Northeastern States Research Coordinating Units to assist in the development, review, and submission of a proposal for a regional study of trade and industrial teacher education.

An RCU staff member served on a committee formed by the Connecticut Regional Medical Program for the purpose of developing a regional medical program inventory of health occupation training programs. A suggested survey instrument was prepared by the RCU and submitted to the committee for its review.

An RCU staff member served as a member of an advisory committee of the New England Educational Assessment Project in a study aimed at developing a system for providing short and long-range manpower need projections for local, state, and regional areas of New England.

Staff members attended a number of meetings held with representatives of the State Labor Department. The meetings were held in an effort to establish inter-departmental cooperation in the evaluation of the effectiveness of training in MDTA programs. The meetings resulted in the development of various instruments for use in evaluating MDTA trainee characteristics, progress, and subsequent job success.

In 1967 the RCU assisted Norwalk Public School officials in designing a proposal for the continuation of the Center for Vocational Arts, a pilot project whose aim was to provide a specialized occupational training program for school-alienated youth.

VIII. STAFF SUMMARY

Name	Title or Function	Funds Federal	Funds Local	Period Employed	Percent of Time
Herbert Righthand	Co-Director		X	12-1-66 to 12-31-68	7½%

Name	Title or Function	Funds Federal	Funds Local	Period Employed	Percent of Time
Herbert Righthand	Director		X	1-1-69 to 8-31-69	7½%
Maurice J. Ross	Co-Director		X	12-1-66 to 12-31-68	7½%
Philip T. Masley	RCU Coordinator		X	12-1-66 to 8-31-67	100%
Richard C. Wilson	Assistant Coordinator		X	12-1-66 to 8-31-67	100%
" "	RCU Coordinator		X	9-1-67 to 8-31-69	100%
Charles J. Bertagna	Assistant Coordinator		X	9-1-67 to 8-31-69	100%
Robert E. Bennett	Associate Consultant		X	12-1-66 to 8-31-69	15%
Elaine Meleney	Education Service Specialist	X		3-1-67 to 6-9-67	100%
Jean Bradley	Typist		X	12-1-66 to 12-30-66	100%
Marjorie Crandall	Typist	X		12-1-66 to 12-1-67	100%
Penelope Kasolis	Stenographer	X		12-13-66 to 12-15-67	100%
Gertrude Schilling	Typist		X	3-6-67 to 8-31-69	100%
Marie Beaulier	Stenographer	X		1-26-68 to 8-31-69	100%
Patricia Markowski	Typist	X		2-9-68 to 8-31-69	100%

IX. FUTURE ACTIVITIES

The Connecticut Research Coordinating Unit will continue to serve in its present capacity and location. Provisions have been made in the state plan for vocational education for adequate staffing, facilities, and administration for the unit.

The unit has been charged with the administration of exemplary programs and projects in addition to research responsibilities as outlined in the state plan.

X. CERTIFICATION

William H. Flaharty
Assistant Secretary
Connecticut State
Board of Education

October 15, 1969

Herbert Righthand
Project Director

October 15, 1969